

ADMINISTRATIVE - INTERNAL USE ONLY

DDSET

25 August 1981

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting Deputy Director for Science and Technology

FROM:

Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service

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SUBJECT: Public Release of FBIS Analytic Reports

1. This memorandum outlines for your information the policies and practices currently followed by FBIS with respect to distribution of our analytic reports outside the Government. We have reviewed our procedures to ensure that they accord with the sense of newly evolving Agency policy, as we understand it, on public release of analytic materials. Paragraph five contains a proposal to form a working group to develop recommendations on classification and public release of FBIS analytical publications.

2. The Analysis Group's products, like the DAILY REPORT, appear under FBIS cover. They do not carry the Agency seal or any other CIA attribution. They bear the caveat that they are uncoordinated and based exclusively on foreign public information media. They are, however, analytic and FBIS is widely known to be part of CIA.

3. THE TRENDS IN COMMUNIST MEDIA

Individual articles in the weekly TRENDS are now all labeled FOUO, downgraded from Confidential in 1979 in accordance with EO 12065. Articles are wirefiled to a long list of U.S. missions abroad on date of issue. The hard-copy publication continues, however, to come out as a package under Confidential cover by decision of the DDSGT, subject to a still pending final judgment by Agency classification authorities.

The TRENDS is automatically declassified six months after date of issue and offered for public sale through NTIS, a practice dating from 1975 based on a decision of the then DDI. Also since 1975, microfiche copies of the declassified TRENDS have been sent to the Gifts and Exchange Division of the Library of Congress and to the Government Printing Office for distribution through the GPO's Depository Library Program.

The anticipated revision of EO 12065 may proscribe automatic declassification and therefore dictate a change in this distribution. On the advice of DDA/OIS, which has completed an inconclusive review of eight months of TRENDS, the whole question of TRENDS classification remains in abeyance pending a new Executive Order.

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4. Special Studies

Longer range Analysis Reports and Special Memoranda are classified Confidential when they relate to issues having policy implications for the United States, although--like the TRENDS articles--the sources are wholly overt. About half of the special reports are essentially reportorial and do not contain inferences bearing on sensitive issues, so these publications are restricted FOUO except in rare instances when the requesting office may wish the material to be unrestricted for use in the public domain. No special reports are available for public sale.

We are sometimes asked by other Government components, most frequently the Department of State or Defense, to declassify reports soon after they are issued for use in a variety of ways. We handle these requests on a case-by-case basis. Some requesters wish merely to have media information contained in an FBIS report declassified for use in an unclassified paper to be issued under State or DOD cover. Since all our source material is overt, such requests present no problem. When the intent is to make an entire report public--to newsmen by the State Department, for example--we ask that attribution to FBIS be removed.

We are also occasionally asked for individual unclassified reports or for declassification or decontrol of individual reports, usually months or years old, by members of the academic community for use in research. These people learn about the FBIS reports from faculty colleagues having past or present consultative relationships with the Agency, from colleagues at institutes like RAND, or from contacts at State or Defense. We respond on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the quid pro quo involved in our relationship with the requester, the nature of the material requested, and the intended use. Whenever possible, we simply refer requesters to the Library of Congress or NTIS for access to DAILY REPORTS, JPRS issuances, or original foreign press sources.

5. We are aware that the ground rules on release of Agency publications are still evolving. FBIS' analytic product, based wholly on open sources and issued without Agency attribution, remains a special case. At the same time, we realize the need to handle our publications in the spirit of overall Agency policy. With your concurrence, we propose to organize a working group with non-FBIS participation to examine the question of outside distribution along with the related issue of classification, and come up with recommendations.

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